

count of her being so honest I hope she
hasn't bored you
too much! You know the world and its
wonderful snobbish-
ness, only when the Great of the earth seem to
pay attention
the poor things can rise into notice, else they
are left utterly
in the cold!

That the Bard of the Dimbovitza gives you
such real
pleasure is to me a very great satisfaction.
You must like
the chain of pearls and the murderer and the
bereaved
husband and the woman after miscarriage. All
those things
are powerful! To me the book seemed a
literary event and
I felt very proud that such a light should
shine from my
poor little unnoticed country! We are always
wondering
where the origins of these songs may be, they
must come
from the far east, as there is not a word in
them that seems
to allude to Christianity. They are simply
grand and
natural and true, as only Shakespeare has
ever been.

I am told you read German and so I venture
to send you
a true story I have put into somewhat poetic
prose and also
a tiny volume of poems I wrote in English,
and in which
you may like my joyful address to old age! It
is true that
I don't feel any older than at twenty-five and
therefore I
am no real judge, but I see that my feelings
are about what
you say and you may like them, even if my
English verse
should not be quite perfect!

We have had a hard fight for existence all
these last years
and are not beyond much care still. It was
nearly famine,
only we didn't allow it to grow into that, by
making unheard
of sacrifices to keep our peasants alive! This

year is far
from good again, but we hope to get on
without buying in
other countries the Indian corn that wasn't
nearly as good
as ours! Your Minister will tell you all about
our dire
struggle and the unheard of difficulties we had
to contend
with! though thank God he hasn't seen the
worst! Many
have been the sleepless nights! I worked
night and day
to bring our silk industry on the market, as I
saw that when
everything failed the mulberry tree gave us
enough leaves
to keep our silk-worms alive! I do so hope
we shall be
able to do a great deal in that line!